Chudley INTERNATIONAL
MOVING & SHIPPING

A GUIDE TO IMPORTING USED HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS INTO SOUTH AFRICA

GENERAL

The owner of the Household Goods ***MUST*** be in South Africa before Customs clearance can take place.

Personal effects ***MAY*** be cleared in the absence of the owner but it is preferable for the owner to be in South Africa prior to the arrival as SA Customs may ask for the owner of the consignment's passport to be produced. If the owner is not present and Customs request the passport, the goods will be placed into Bond, pending production of the passport and stamped documents.

DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS

The following is a guide to the duty-free importation of used personal & household effects into South Africa. SA Customs allow one duty-free import. Permission must be obtained from SA Customs for a second import.

Immigrants, returning residents and temporary residents may import used household and personal effects into the Republic of South Africa duty-free. Customs forms DA304 and PI160 must be completed in triplicate and presented to the Department of Customs, together with passport, residence permit and detailed inventory for attestation. The passport must have the date stamp of entry into South Africa. That is to say, the owner of the household effects must be in the country in order to clear customs, which should be done 10 days prior to the arrival of the vessel.

Returning residents must have been out of South Africa for an unbroken absence of at least 6 months before they are automatically entitled to duty-free importation of household goods purchased while out of South Africa.

Temporary residents will only be allowed duty-free importation if they are in possession of a valid temporary work permit.

Foreign diplomats will be permitted duty-free importation upon production of a detailed inventory and a diplomatic clearance certificate completed and signed by the relevant embassy / consulate in South Africa and countersigned by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

Firearms and ammunition may be imported duty-free but an import permit has to be obtained from the Department of Trade and Industry, Export and Import Control in Pretoria before shipment. A form SAP311 must be completed and signed by the importer which South African Customs will retain and thereafter issue form SAP312 allowing the importer 60 days to officially license the firearm with the South African Police. The firearms/ ammunition have to be physically inspected by South African Customs before they will issue form SAP312 and should therefore be packed in an identifiable package and placed in an easily accessible position in the container.

Liquor may be imported but is liable for full duties and taxes, and requires an Import Permit from the Department of Trade and Industry, Export and Import Control in Pretoria and a special Removal Certificate.

Inherited items To import inherited effects, the heir must possess a certified copy of the last will and testament wherein the specific items are bequeathed, and a copy of the death certificate. Such goods may then be imported duty-free. Importers must be in possession of their Permanent Residence Permit prior to shipment otherwise Customs will require Provisional Payment of 50% of the value of the consignment.

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE Customs clearance takes an average of 7 – 10 working days from the date of presentation of documents.

HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS Our destination representative will supply DA.304 and PI.160 forms for the importation of used household and personal effects, which must be completed by the owner of the goods and presented with a full, descriptive inventory, and your original passport with residence permit, endorsed with your arrival date in South Africa.

PERSONAL EFFECTS In your absence, the PI.160 form may be completed by a relative for the importation of ***personal effects only***. Personal effects are clothing, footwear, books, and sports equipment. All consignments including crockery, linen, electrical appliances, rugs, pictures etc will be deemed to be Household Goods and will require your presence in South Africa for customs clearance.

BOND STORAGE If the importer of household goods is not in South Africa upon arrival of the consignment or does not possess a residence permit (temporary or permanent) the goods will be cleared into bond, pending presentation of the correct documents. Bond storage charges are calculated at approximately US$20 per 100 cubic foot per month, or part thereof (minimum charge US$50), plus there will be a Bond Entry fee of approximately US$50.

CUSTOMS EXAMINATION South African Customs may, at their discretion, designate any consignment for examination. In this event examination fee of between US$100 - US$200 is payable. Our destination representative will usually remove the consignment under embargo to their warehouse for the examination to take place under their supervision. You may be required to lodge a Provisional Payment with SA Customs for this purpose. Our representative will assist you with the formalities.

CARGO DUES This is a wharfage levy payable in South Africa and calculated at approximately US$0.30 per cubic foot on shipments containing household effects and motor vehicles. This charge does not apply to shipments containing personal effects (baggage).

RESTRICTED ARTICLES The following articles may be permitted entry but are subject to the importer obtaining a licence and/or import permit ***prior to importation***:

- **Firearms** – Subject also to Customs inspection so these should be packed separately and should be easily accessible at the rear of the container.
- **Liquor** – Subject to duty. A complete list of the liquor, with the percentage of alcohol, label names, and values is required to determine the duty payable.
- **Plants, seeds & bulbs**

PROHIBITED ARTICLES The following articles are prohibited from importation:

- Ammunition and explosives
- Pornographic material
- Agricultural products
- Honey
- Meat and meat products
- Narcotic drugs
- Medicines
- Certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks of protected species

This information is not definitive and is intended as a guide only. Destination regulations can change without notice and for specific guidance we strongly recommend that you obtain direct rulings from the relevant authority. Further information can be obtained from the South African Revenue Service website – www.sars.gov.za.